G.I.'s in Test Not Aware That They Received LSD

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WASHINGTON, July 23—A senior United States Army medical researcher said today that none of the nearly 600 soldiers who were given LSD in Army experiments were told before or after that they had received the drug, and he said that follow-up studies were done on only 10 per cent of the men.

The researcher, Dr. Van M. Sim, a civilian in charge of medical research at the Edgewood Arsenal in northeast Maryland, said that the test subjects were not told about the LSD because to have done so would have prejudiced the experiments.

Speaking at a news conference in the Pentagon and in conversation later with newsmen, Dr. Sim said that the Army ended 12 years of testing on people in 1967, but is continuing experiments on animals with other drugs that may produce hallucinations.

He said that he considered the drug experiments "very important" to national security and did not consider them to be particularly hazardous to the subjects, because they were very carefully supervised.

He said that he knew of no deaths as a result of the LSD experiments. Nor, he said, had there been any reports of prolonged hospitalization of any of the subjects.

However, Dr. Sim and other Army officials indicated that those conducting the experiments had had virtually no contact with the subjects except for the 50 or so who were in the 10 per cent who were given questionnaires and interviewed after the test.

An additional exception, he said, were some Chemical Corps officers who had participated in the experiments and been reassigned to the Edge-

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wood Arsenal later in their careers.

Dr. Sim said that seven soldiers outside the follow-up group had indicated that they "felt they had side effects." He said that the doctors treating them were "sent a full explanation [of the tests], and we never heard any more from them."

Army Seeking Men

Dr. Sim said that the Surgeon General asked in 1973 for a list of those who participated in the LSD tests—a total of 583 soldiers. In February, 1974, an army spokesman said, the Army began trying to locate the men to give them physical and psychiatric examinations.

So far, the spokesman said, the Army has been focusing on onet group of 34 soldiers who were stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., and has managed to find 19 of them. The spokesman said that an analysis of the examinations of these men would not be completed until the fall.

The Army spokesman said that any men who believed that they might have been subjects of the LSD testing could telephone the United States Army's Medical Research and Developmen Command in Washington at 202-693-8065 to see if they were on the official list of participants.

Dr. Sim said that an additional 900 persons—all believed to be civilians—participated in LSD experiments under Army contract at universities and private institutions, but he was unclear about the procedures in these experiments and on the question of whether there had been any follow up.

No Details Given

He did not go into detail on what precautions were taken to safeguard the soldiers—all volunteers—during the experiments. But, at one point after the news conference he said to a newsman, "They were so supported, you wouldn't believe it."

In an interview the other day, a former soldier now living in New York and who asked that his name not be published, said that he had participated in what he now believes was an LSD experiment at the Edgewood Arsenal in 1966. He was mildly critical that no follow up had been done on him, but he said "in fairness to the Army, it should be emphasized that, to my knowledge, we were given the best of care you could have been given."

"There was an element of danger, but they took the best precautions not to harm us," he added.

The former soldier said that during the test, which extended over two days, he slept in a padded room. He said that at least one person, usually a nurse, was always with him, and that he was escorted everywhere, even to the toilet.

In explaining the failure to tell the soldiers that they were being involved with LSD, Dr. Sim said, "One of the things you cannoat tell them is what the chemical is and anything aboutw hat they might experience, or you prejudice the experiment."

He said that the volunteers were "all told that they were going to undertake tests involving chemicals, the duration of the test and the procedures, whether it would be given by mouth or otherwise."

He said that the subjects were also told the drug might influence their behavior. But he said that they were not told they might hallucinate. "How do you describe hallucination to someone who is never hallucinated?" the doctor asked.

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